

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

Claim 1 is currently being amended.

Claims 29-33 are being added.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-11 and 29-33 are now pending in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in a way to convey to a skilled artisan that Applicant possessed the claimed invention. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the specification does not show the coating and ribs being made of different materials. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's specification supports claims directed to ribs made of the same or different material as the coating. Specifically, the specification states that "the composite and the ribs may be made of various materials." See page 6, first paragraph. The specification also states that the "LSR formulation employed for forming ribs in the second operation can be the same as or different from the LSR formulation used for coating a face of the web." See page 10, third paragraph. These excerpts demonstrate that Applicant possessed the claimed invention, and one skilled in the art would appreciate using different materials for the ribs and coating.

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action states that it is unclear in claim 1 whether the ribs are the same material as the coating. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's claim 1 may include ribs that are made of the same or different material as the coating. As shown above, the specification supports either embodiment. Accordingly, Applicant believes that all § 112 rejections should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-5, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Debus (U.S. Pat. No. 6,180,210). Applicant respectfully transverses this rejection.

The rejected claims, as amended, require that the ribs are separated from one another by distance greater than their individual height. Debus does not show or teach this degree of separation between each rib, which enables the present invention to impart a sufficient lateral force on the objects the conveyor carries, especially when moving objects through a machine such as a contact toaster. Accordingly, Debus does not anticipate or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Huang et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,352,758). Applicant respectfully transverses this rejection.

Huang et al. discloses a material made from a hydrophobic polymer 8 with grooves separated by a hydrophilic material 4 and 6 for use as an anti-dew coating. Huang et al. does not disclose a coating disposed over the face of the reinforcement material, where the ribs are raised above the coated face and are independent of the reinforcement material. Further, Huang et al. does not teach or suggest these features and should not be considered for any obviousness determination. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-11 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either Lorenz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,880,043) or Harlow (U.S. Patent No. 4,000,348). Applicant respectfully transverses these rejections.

Lorenz et al. does not disclose a flighted belt with ribs raised above a coated surface. Harlow does not disclose a flexible composite having a reinforcement material. In Harlow,

two pieces of PTFE tape (not coatings) are sintered together with a thermoplastic adhesive such as FEP. The adhesive serves to prevent the swimming of conductive wires and permit sintering of the PTFE tape. *See* Column 2, lines 62-68 and Column 3, lines 1-49. The Harlow adhesive serves no reinforcement purpose such as the reinforcement material described and claimed in the present application. Further, Harlow does not disclose coating disposed over the face of the reinforcement material. Instead Harlow discloses laminating three distinct objects together through heat and adhesive. Accordingly, neither Lorenz or Harlow anticipate the claimed invention as amended and these rejections should be withdrawn.

Additionally, Harlow is not analogous art. Harlow describes conductive tape. One skilled in the flexible composite art would not look to art describing electrically conductive materials for guidance. Accordingly, Harlow may not be used to render the claimed invention obvious.

Additional Art

Applicant submits herewith an Information Disclosure Statement citing additional art. Applicant believes that the claims as amended are neither anticipated or rendered obvious by the art. Accordingly, Applicant does not believe the art will necessitate any additional arguments from the Patent Office.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 26371



26371

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Telephone: (414) 297-5664
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

By Jason E. Pauls

Jason E. Pauls
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 45,651